

TUESDAY

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UNO
ARCHIVES

THE GATEWAY

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The University of Nebraska at Omaha

Professors' union wins salary increase

By ERIC STOAKES
Senior Reporter

The UNO professors' union claimed a victory Feb. 17 when its proposal for a 9 percent salary increase was granted by an arbitrator, said Janet West, president of the UNO chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

"We are very pleased with the decision," West said. "It has been a long time in coming and it was a hard fought case. Everybody on both sides put their best into it."

Under the new contracts, 380 continuing faculty members will receive 9 percent raises this fall and next fall. The total of the two raises will cost about \$2.5 million, West said.

"It was indicated in the testimony that the regents do have the ability to pay the salary increase," she said.

Negotiations over professor contracts began last fall, but West said the salary packet was the only issue left unresolved.

"It was the only thing keeping us from coming to an agree-

ment," she said.

Legislative Bill 661 sets the guidelines for all state employee contract negotiations. The bill states that if the labor parties in the collective bargaining process can not reach an agreement at the bargaining table, a special arbitrator is selected to choose between the proposals.

James McClimon of Des Moines was selected by the university and the union to settle the dispute.

"He was required to choose the most reasonable final offer based upon the facts of the case," West said.

After each party submitted their best offer on Jan. 15, a hearing was held the last week in January to review testimony.

West said both proposals were based on salary levels at institutions comparable to UNO.

"Our proposal was closer to the mean salary at those institutions," she said.

The university's final offer requested a 6.5 percent increase, one for this fall and one for next fall. West said she thinks the increase would have been insufficient.

"It would barely bring us up to the differential that exists in the current year," she said. "Since the judgment is for the next two years, the arbitrator appropriately factored in a projected salary increase for '89-'90 and '90-'91."

John Russell, University of Nebraska assistant vice president for administration, said in the Omaha World-Herald that he disagreed with McClimon's reasoning.

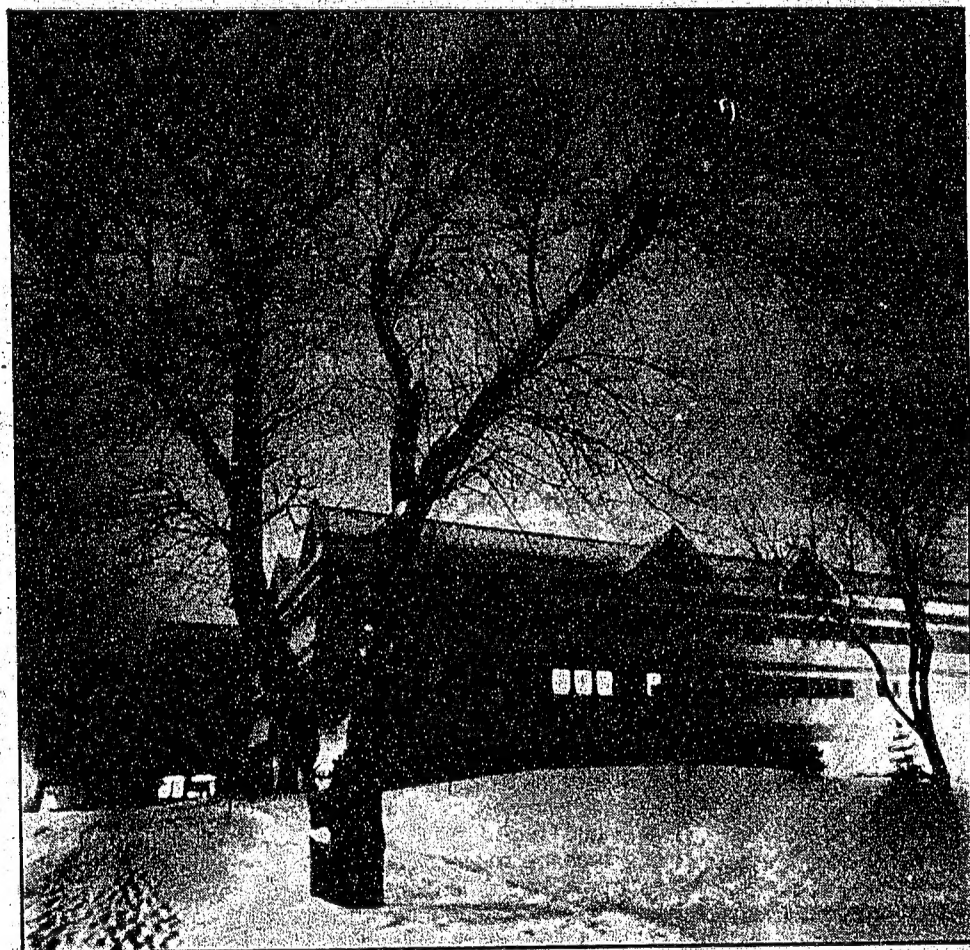
"I think it was a poor decision," he said. "In comparing UNO salaries with those at other institutions, he guesstimated on how much salaries would increase at those schools."

West said the administration could appeal the decision to the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations.

"We're hoping they won't," West said. "It was a fair ruling, and it was based upon testimony at the hearing and on the Nebraska labor relations law."

Russell was unavailable for comment on whether the administration would seek an appeal.

"Frankly," West said, "I think it's about time we all get back to doing what we are paid to do."



— Dave Weaver

Snow, Snow, Snow

For the third Monday in a row, students have had to make the snowy trek across campus to the Durham Science Center.

Savings and loan halts lending

By JOHN ROOD
Editor

Nebraska's largest financial institution said Friday it will no longer make one type of student loan.

Commercial Federal Savings and Loan sent letters to financial aid departments at about 300 colleges around the nation informing them of the decision. The letters said Commercial Federal has decided to "temporarily suspend" processing the Stafford Loan, formerly known as the Guaranteed Student Loan.

"That does not mean that a year from now we might not reconsider," said John Laughlin, a vice president for Commercial Federal. Laughlin said Stafford Loans, though insured by the federal government, are not as profitable as they once were.

"Student loans don't offer the profitability of some types of loans available to us," he said.

Laughlin said he is concerned about the default rate on student loans. Because of high default rates nationally, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has enacted tougher standards for repayment of student loans. Schools who fail to meet the standards could have their loans insured at less than 100 percent.

According to a two-year-old DOE study, UNO's student loan default rate was 23 percent.

"That surprises me. I would imagine if every school in Nebraska had that default rate, we probably would not be insured at 100 percent," Laughlin said.

See Loans on page 7

Decision surprises financial aid director

Despite the loss of the university's largest Stafford Loan lender, UNO Financial Aid Director J. Phillip Shreves said students should not worry about obtaining loans.

"But an awful lot of students are going to find a new lender," he added.

Shreves said Commercial Federal handled about 20 percent of UNO's student loans and was its largest student loan lender. Commercial Federal made about \$600,000 in loans to almost 400 students a year, he said. Norwest Banks and Packers Bank and Trust Co. are UNO's second and third largest student loan lenders, he said.

Shreves said he received a letter Friday informing him of Commercial Federal's decision.

"It's kind of a shock," he said.

Shreves said he cannot remember another financial institution turning down the loans.

"It hasn't happened since I've been here."

"There are many other banks in town interested in it. It's just one more thing the students will have to go through," he said.

Students who had loans with Commercial Federal should contact the Financial Aid Office.

Bacon explains faculty's Kearney stand

Student senators dismissed for unexcused absences

By MARY DIRCKS
Staff Reporter

Sens. JoAnn Dineen and Sharon Fritton were officially dismissed from office at the Student Senate meeting Feb. 16.

Dineen, a member of the Oversight Committee, acquired three unexcused absences and failed to contact either Senate Speaker Mary Reynolds or Oversight Committee Chairperson Pamela Kocina. According to Reynolds, a letter was sent to Dineen one week prior to the meeting.

Student Government policy states that three unexcused absences are grounds for dismissal, pending a senate vote.

The motion to remove her from office was passed with one opposing vote cast by Sen. David Paladino.

"I think it's a little unfair (to vote) until she's been talked to," he said.

Fritton's dismissal from office was automatic because she failed to meet university requirements for members of Student Government.

Regulations call for automatic removal with no further action required, Reynolds said. "She is more than welcome

to re-apply once the matter has been resolved."

Student-At-Large Darlene Hohndorf's removal was also brought before the senate for a vote due to absenteeism.

Budget Committee Chairperson Teresa Houser motioned to postpone Hohndorf's dismissal from office indefinitely.

"I consider her a valuable asset to our committee and I'd hate to see her removed," she said. The motion passed unanimously, allowing Hohndorf one more unexcused absence before further action is taken.

Associate Political Science Professor Walter Bacon, a Faculty Senate representative, was present as a guest speaker to explain the Faculty Senate's reasons for passing Resolution 1766 at its Feb. 8 meeting.

"Both faculty and staff would benefit from the integration of Kearney State into the University of Nebraska System," Bacon said.

The resolution just gives support of Kearney State's integration into the university system, not to any specific piece of legislation, he said.

According to Bacon, the resolution addresses two significant issues.

First, establishing equal access to a university is the

Faculty Senate's main concern, Bacon said. "We have access to a university because we live in Omaha. They (people in Western Nebraska) should have access as well."

Second, the resolution addresses the importance of maintaining each university's individual role.

"The flagship concept is a terrible thing. Each school has a unique mission," Bacon said. "This resolution preserves those missions."

According to Bacon, the Faculty Senate is against postponing Kearney State's integration for further study. "Postponement means examining the university's priorities, not its constituencies," he said.

Student President/Regent Paula Effle said she also opposes holding LB160 over to the next legislative session.

"The game has already started and it's time to play ball," she said. "Once passed, the Board of Regents will have until 1991 to integrate Kearney State in a way that will benefit Kearney, the State of Nebraska and all three campuses."

Comment

Law has its drawbacks

Columnist says cheap helmets not answer to problem

Working in a motorcycle shop definitely has its advantages.

In danger of sounding trite, I've met tons of interesting people, made a lot of new friends and can now intelligently converse with the average citizen about motorcycles.

But it's also had its drawbacks. While working in the midst of all that is bikerish, I've formed an opinion on the mandatory helmet law that went into effect Jan. 1.

And the opinion is not one that is popular with my peers or anyone who is not in some way associated with motorcycles. I am, as you've probably guessed, against the arbitrary thing. Ah, but I didn't say I'm anti-helmet, just anti-helmet law. I believe a good helmet can protect both your skull and life in the right circumstances. The key words here are *good helmet*.

Deana Vodicka
Gateway Columnist

But why bring it up now, since it has passed and is well into its second month? Because I've noticed some changes these last few months that the average citizen couldn't, or rather wouldn't, ever admit would happen.

But if you need a little bit of background on the helmet law, here it is. A helmet must be Department of Transportation (DOT) approved; it must include a visor or face shield of some type; and the DOT sticker must show at all times. The law is in effect for everyone, and even counts if you're sitting by the side of the road with your key in the ignition. The fine is \$50 plus \$20-some in court costs for either not wearing a helmet or wearing a helmet that is not DOT approved.

The shop I work in, for example, sells top of the line helmets, some as high as \$200 to \$300. Now, the people who are serious about protecting themselves bought quality helmets long before Mr. Dan Lynch ever came up with the bright idea. And many people, young and old alike, were concerned with their safety long before the government began to worry about insurance rates.

But what I'm seeing now scares me. All of a sudden, new companies are springing up overnight and pushing their answer to the helmet law: cheap, very, very cheap, helmets. Helmets that probably aren't even DOT approved.

Oh, but it'll get most people by, won't it? I mean, what police officer is going to stop someone wearing a helmet just because he might think it's not an approved helmet? Does our police division really have the time to inspect every motorcycle rider's helmet?

And never mind the fact that these fly-by-night helmets are no better than wearing nothing at all. That they'll shatter like an eggshell if dropped onto a wooden floor from a height of two feet. That they're really no more protection

than your average Kerr-McGee cap.

Oh, and don't forget the local K marts and Shopkos. No doubt they'll sell cheap helmets, and while they'll probably be approved, they'll be just on the fine line of providing adequate protection.

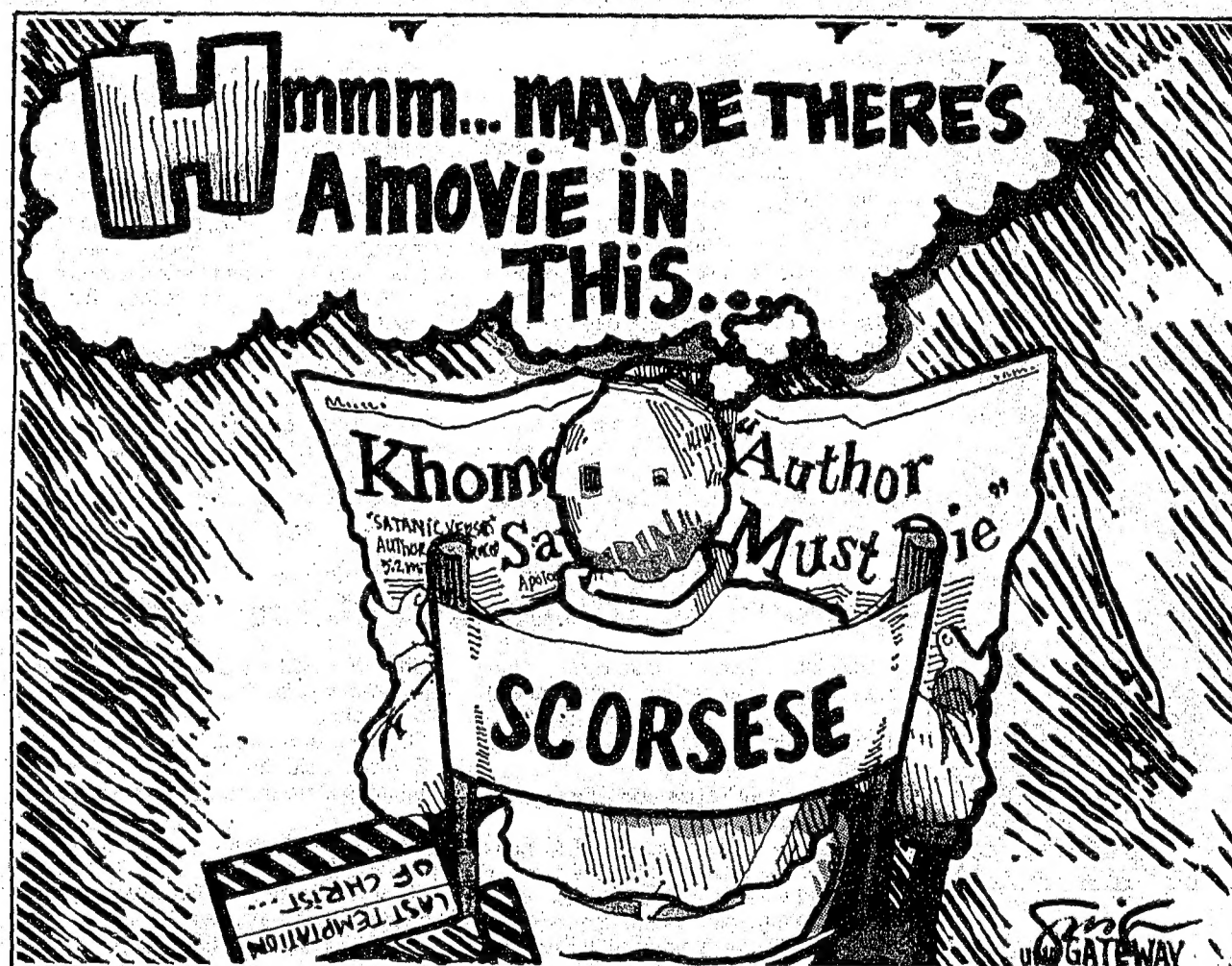
All of a sudden, new companies are springing up overnight and pushing their answer to the helmet law: cheap, very, very cheap, helmets. Helmets that probably aren't even DOT approved.

But what if you're still really anti-helmet no matter what the law says? What if you even don't want to spend \$8 for a helmet? Simple. Go down to your local thrift store and get an already crash-tested helmet for \$1. A literally crash tested helmet. Never mind that it's got hairline fractures or downright cracks in it. It's a helmet, right? Put that on your kid and feel good that you're abiding by the law. We wouldn't want a fine because we're not wearing a helmet, now would we?

But of course, these arguments don't even scratch the surface of the inadequacies of our new mandatory helmet law. These are just a few things I've noticed since working closely to the situation during the past year. Me, I'll probably always be against the helmet law. There are just too many holes in it. In time, I think the thing will be either yanked out or modified to 18 and under.

But I'm not into big-time protesting and all that. My favorite idea thus far has been one I've heard from a regular customer who fortunately has a sense of perspective on the whole thing.

Glue a wig to the damn thing. If that doesn't put it in perspective, nothing does.



Mailbag

Senators should not judge

To the Editor:

I feel I must address the letter by Student Senator Eric Victor in the Feb. 14 Gateway. In his letter he states that when the Senate allocates funds to various organizations on campus such as the chemistry club or greek organization, there are certain possible benefits. He then goes on to say that the chemistry club would hopefully bring back knowledge and experience that will help the chemistry department as a whole. If funds were allocated to the Chess Club or the Science Fantasy Club what would they bring back? Knowledge for most students? Probably not.

I said I hoped to gain information that would help me better organize and reach out to other women. I never said any purpose was "recruitment." Our organization is open to gays, lesbians and supportive straight friends and family. Anyone with any knowledge at all of homosexuality, other than myth, knows that one does not "recruit" homosexuals. If Sen. Victor's education is so lacking maybe he should be subject to public reprimand.

Whether or not senators believe that homosexuality is an unnatural and divisive force in our society today should not enter into their votes. They are elected not to judge but to administer. The GLSO does not promote homosexuality on campus anymore than the Pen and Sword Society promotes militarism. The Student Senate was not subsidizing the encouragement of the homosexual lifestyle. They were simply considering a valid request from a valid student organization, and such a request should have nothing whatsoever to do with whether or not they agree with the reason for the existence of the organization. That is a small minded approach, not worthy of a student senator from a university. He states he hopes to see a better tolerance for others' opinions in the future — opinions that are equally as well thought out, but arrive at the contrary conclusions because of a different value system. I state again, no student senator is elected to promote their, or anyone else's, value system.

I fail to understand how a "conscience" could vote on the proposal. Our group was asking for no more than airfare to the convention. All other funds for registration and transportation at the convention were donated to us through another organization. The Student Senate was asked to vote on a fund allocation — NOT morality or ethics.

GLSO would, however, like to thank the majority of the student senators who voted on the issue for what it was — a legitimate student group asking for funds to attend a conference.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Heidi J. Hess
President
GLSO

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Struggle for stability will outlast pullout, Sabrosky says

By STEVE CHASE
Staff Reporter

Although Feb. 15 marked the end of the 10-year occupation of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the struggle for stability in this war-torn country may last several years, according to international security expert Alan N. Sabrosky.

"What do we see about looking at Afghanistan?" Sabrosky asked. "Yes, today is a day of victory. Yes, the Soviets have pulled out of Afghanistan. Yes, the (Soviet-backed) regime in Kabul almost certainly has little time left. Yes, this may be good for the United States.

"But the end result will be another civil war in Afghanistan," he said.

Sabrosky, who now serves as a private security consultant and is a professor at Georgetown University, spoke to an audience of around 200 at UNO about the war in Afghanistan and Soviet military policy. His discussion was sponsored by UNO's Afghanistan Student Association.

Most of the professor's discussion centered around some of the reasons for Soviet actions and what the future holds for Afghanistan.

"What does this mean for Afghanistan?" Sabrosky asked. "Tears, more tears."

He said problems will still exist in this country because of the 10-year war between Soviet and Afghan forces supporting the Marxist government of President Najibullah and the Mujahideen, a coalition comprised of seven Afghan Islamic groups.

"There is a minor chance of success, and there is a minor chance of stability, when Najibullah goes," he said. "But all is very, very slow."

He said the situation in Afghanistan at present will be a severe problem for policy makers around the world.

"Even if there was peace tomorrow, Afghanistan would spend the end of this century trying to recover," he said.

"When you have over a million dead, 2 to 3 million unsettled inside the country and 3 to 5 million refugees, you have a situation of chaos and social disaster that may not have a parallel in proportional terms in a post World War II era," he said.

Sabrosky, who served in the Marine Corp during the Vietnam War, also made some comparisons between the Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan with the United States' participation in Vietnam.

"The 1970s and the 1980s have seen in two different parts of the world, in two different ways, the military defeat of the two military superpowers of the world," he said.

"The notion that military superpowers could be defeated by insurgents or guerrillas, whether you called them Viet Cong revolutionaries of Vietnam or Mujahideen; 20 years ago it was virtually unthinkable," he said.

Other similarities he pointed out were that both the United States and the Soviet Union strived to increase their

sphere of influence in a certain part of the world by using military force.

"So long as the Soviet Union was willing to continue supplying forces and willing to keep fighting, it could not lose," Sabrosky said.

"But it was incapable of winning militarily," he said.

Sabrosky added that the Mujahideen and the assistance by the Pakistan government limited the Red Army's activity in Afghanistan. But he said that it was not until the mid-1980s when the war turned against the Soviet Union.

"The single critical shift in the military situation in Afghanistan, in my opinion, occurred when the Mujahideen began acquiring increasing numbers of Stinger surface-to-air missiles and inflicted major losses on Soviet aviation," he said.

In foreign policy, Sabrosky said the Soviet position on Afghanistan during its past three leaders was similar to U.S. policy in the 1960s and 1970s.

"The development of the Soviet Union's position on Afghanistan in the Geneva conferences is a fascinating case study of the erosion in the initial Soviet position," he said. "It is very much like the United States' position at the Paris negotiation on Vietnam. It gradually eroded over a period of years."

"The 1970s and the 1980s have seen in two different parts of the world, in two different ways, the military defeat of the two military superpowers of the world," he said.

—Alan Sabrosky

The professor said the decay in Soviet military and foreign policy has not only caused the Red Army to withdraw, but also has played an important role in shaping two political doctrines.

The loss in Afghanistan marked the end of the Brezhnev doctrine, Sabrosky said. This policy allowed the Soviets to invade any country they felt necessary to keep a communist regime in power.

He also cited the initialization of the Reagan doctrine which he said started in the early 1980s. This philosophy was based on the notion that the United States would retaliate to activities started by the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s.

"This meant we (the United States) would support insurgents, we would support guerrillas," he said.

"Afghanistan was a test of the Reagan doctrine versus the Brezhnev doctrine," the professor said. "And the Reagan doctrine won."

As for how the people of the Soviet Union are affected by the war, Sabrosky told of a recent visit he made to Moscow in January, 1988.

"When I was there, I was in a hotel, and in the lobby there was a film on the television," he said. "I was the only foreigner among about 20 people."

"And it wasn't a documentary, but a fictional portrayal of a war," Sabrosky said. "The film was a portrayal of the war in Afghanistan."

"What made this fascinating was that the Mujahideen had won," he said.

"And you saw at the end of this film, after Soviet troops had been killed in the battle field, after their helicopters had been shot down, after the soldier's threw their wounded into helicopters trying to get away, you saw the faces and expressions of the Russians in the bar."

"If there was a dry eye in the place it was mine because here were the Russian people watching the Red Army, the elite Areosault troops of the Red Army lose to the Mujahideen, and there were tears running down everyone's face."

Sabrosky also said that because the Soviet army played an important role in the forming of the Soviet Union, the leadership of the Soviet Union has made certain that the army has withdrawn in an organized fashion.

"The Soviet leadership has gone out of its way, not to ignore the consequences of losing the war, but to bring their soldiers back as heroes," he said.

"When I came back from Vietnam, I got nothing," the professor said. "That was the experience of most Vietnam veterans in the United States."

"When the Soviet Union brings its soldiers across the Freedom Bridge (the structure that links the Soviet Union and Afghanistan) or being unloaded at a major Soviet airport, they are greeted with flowers and flags and parades."

"What they are basically saying is that Afghanistan is less important than the future of the Red Army."

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First graders tour campus

By BRAD OSBORNE
Contributing Writer

One hundred first-grade students from Franklin Elementary School visited the UNO campus Friday as part of a tour conducted by the College of Education to acquaint young children with the university.

The tour was designed to promote teacher education for minorities. "These are first-graders, but we don't think it's too soon yet for them to start thinking about the future," said Louise Hairston, minority recruiter for the College of Education.

The students were greeted at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Center Ballroom by staff and minority interns. They ate lunch and then split into four groups for touring.

"We want them to start thinking about college early in life and to start setting goals for themselves," Hairston said. "We in the College of Education want to encourage students to become teachers in order to do something about the gap that we know is right around the corner in teacher education — and it's going to be acute with minorities."

All of the Franklin students said they wanted to attend college. "Most want to be teachers right now," Hairston said. "They're a little bit beyond being cowboys."

Though a large number of students interviewed said they indeed wanted to be teachers, others wanted to be psychiatrists, swimmers, businessmen and dancers. One student simply said, "I want to be a teen-ager."



An innocent stroll turns into a running gun battle for FBI recruits Janis Zuckerman (Mary Gross) and Ellie DeWitt (Rebecca DeMornay) in "Feds," a new video release just out.

Bread comes to life in play

"Night of the Living Bread," an off-beat musical comedy about a down-and-out bakery on 4th and Dodge, is currently playing at the Anchor Inn at 2499 Freedom Park Road.

Lasting through March 4, the zany story is a product of the Omaha Workshop Theatre. The workshop has produced such local plays as "Nebraska/Oklahoma" and "Lone Star & Laundry and Bourbon."

"Night of the Living Bread" details the troubles that follow when a loaf of bread somehow comes to life in the Dodge Street bakery.

Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$14 for dinner and the show, and \$7 for the show only. They are available at TIX and Homers Records.

Video releases out this month

By ELIZABETH TAPE
Movie Reviewer

A few words about some video releases just out this month:

"Feds"

A charming though not terribly intellectually demanding look at two women (Rebecca DeMornay and Mary Gross) trying to get through their initiation training in the FBI.

Full of amusing twists as the two are scrutinized by their male counterparts, the film offers two very different protagonists: DeMornay's character is physically competent, but weak academically. Gross's character is clumsy physically — but a brilliant student. These two appealing characters, and the depiction of their friendship, makes "Feds" good watching.

"Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam"

This powerful film uses actual footage of the war in Vietnam, and features the recitation of letters from soldiers who fought there.

As we hear one heartfelt emotion after another, we fear that many of the authors will not survive. Sadly, in many instances, this is true. "Dear America," a most wrenching experience, is still a highly recommended film.

"The Wizard of Loneliness"

This family drama set during World War II tells the story of a young boy (Lucas Haas from "Witness") whose mother dies and whose father enlists in the Army.



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Campus Art Gallery gets canned Feb. 22

The UNO Art Gallery, located in Annex 26, is getting canned Feb. 22.

That is the date the gallery opens its doors for the public to view an aluminum can exhibition.

The works were submitted by artists during a two-week competition which just ended. The works will be on display through March 17.

The competition was sponsored by CAN-PAK, an Omaha recycling company. Entrants ranged from young children to professional artists. Some contestants sent work from as far away as Arizona. The top prize of \$500 will be donated by CAN-PAK.

The exhibition opens with a reception Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Besides the art itself, Professor David Corbin will give an environmental presentation, complete with music and slides, titled "Whose Garden Was This?" Soft drinks will be provided by the Pepsi Cola Company.

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Nina Ionescu (Paulina Porizkova) helps novelist Phillip Blackwood (Tom Selleck) out of a painful situation in 'Her Alibi,' a Warner Bros. comedy-thriller.

Record review

R.E.M. enters mainstream

By KELLY MURPHY
Contributing Writer

Having made the leap to Warner Bros. from another record label, R.E.M. seemed destined to enter the mainstream of music.

With the release of "Green," the band's sixth studio album, this expectation is becoming a reality.

Although the sound and feel of their previous two albums, "Life's Rich Pageant" and "Document," hinted at this evolution, "Green" takes the band over the edge.

Lead vocalist Michael Stipe's lyrics are increasingly understandable and direct, while Peter Buck's guitar playing has adopted a heavier, grittier feel.

Through a fine production job by Warner Bros., these new-found qualities bull their way through the heavy rhythms of bassist Mike Mills and drummer Bill Berry. The cur-

rent single, "Stand," exemplifies this production.

With nine of the 11 tracks on the album fitting a pop medium, the two remaining tracks, "You Are the Everything," and the untitled 11th track, warrant attention.

Both cuts are reminiscent of works found on earlier albums, such as 1984's "Reckoning." It features murky indistinguishable vocals harmonized over jangled guitar lines.

This particular style allows even the first R.E.M. album to remain unique to this day.

"Green," despite its polished sound, will not stand this test of time. However, the layman just boarding the R.E.M. bandwagon will find it an exciting discovery.

Those who have been on the bandwagon will find the journey a bit bumpy.

'Alibi' not heavy film, but still entertains well

I know there must be something wrong with me when I enjoy a film that tosses content out the window.

This is my reaction to "Her Alibi." It opens with the slaying of a Romanian man in a New York City apartment. Police officer Frank Polito (James Farentino) investigates the crime, while across the street in a cafe, mystery writer Phillip Blackwood (Tom Selleck) and his publisher eat breakfast.

We learn Blackwood, a once prolific writer, has not had a hit in some time, much to his publisher's consternation.

about Ionescu, his sister-in-law, Sally, (Tess Harper) urges him to share his torment. Harper then becomes distracted by the matter of what spice to add to a salad, and misses most of what Blackwood says when he finally opens up. It is an amusing interaction.

Much of the film's verbal humor works well, as when Blackwood (in his opening scene) attempts to gain the attention of his waitress by offering her one of his novels. "I wrote this," he remarks. "And I wrote this," she rejoins, handing him the check.

While none of the film is daringly unique, it is nonetheless well written, and generates more than a few chuckles. It only becomes tiresome when it resorts to overly slapstick-style humor. For example, during a luncheon speech, a large pitcher of water adorns Blackwood's podium. The pitcher is present for only one purpose and its crashing to the ground comes as no surprise.

"Her Alibi" occasionally just plummets altogether as in the later scene when dinner guests, thinking they have been poisoned, in unison regurgitate their meals. Extending the scene to that degree appears juvenile in contrast with most of the remaining film.

The occasional usages of slow motion are also unnecessary, as in Phillip's first encounter with Nina or later when she runs her fingers through his hair. In that scene also, great effort is made to generate sexual tension through the positioning of their bodies.

I am somewhat surprised this material would have caught the eye of Australian director Bruce Beresford, Oscar nominated in 1980 for his co-authorship of the powerful "Breaker Morant," and again in 1984 for directing the moving "Tender Mercies."

Although little within "Her Alibi" hints at the presence of a masterful director, the excellently timed pacing of the film's humor — particularly its verbal repartee — does suggest guidance by a capable artist.

Despite its occasional indulgences, I found myself laughing more often than I expected while watching "Her Alibi." I can recommend it for those seeking some amusing, though undemanding, entertainment.

Elizabeth Tape Cinema

Meanwhile, he attends court sessions, seeking ideas for a new work. Here he chances upon Nina Ionescu (Paulina Porizkova), a stunning, young Romanian woman accused of murder. Seeing his inspiration pass before him, and convinced of her innocence, Blackwood hatches a plot to provide her with an alibi ... as a means to meet her.

While her past and true identity remain shrouded in mystery, their time together at his country home are fraught with real and imagined dangers, some comical moments, a bit of burgeoning love and a not terribly surprising conclusion.

No one could accuse "Her Alibi" of making excessive demands on one's concentration. Then again, it makes no pretense to do so. Tom Selleck plays the amiable, self-deprecating young man he so ably portrayed for years on the "Magnum" series.

Paulina Porizkova, similarly, is not asked to proffer great moments of acting skill. Her extraordinary looks fulfill the greatest demand of this role. She performs adequately, her allure and mesmerizing face enhancing her presence.

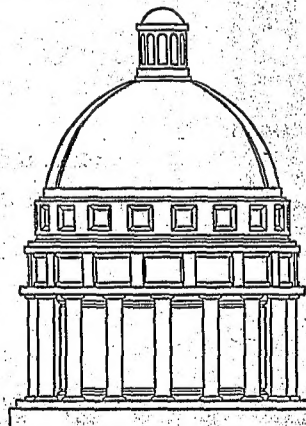
"Her Alibi" abounds, nonetheless, with genuinely funny moments. For instance, when Blackwood is wracked with indecision

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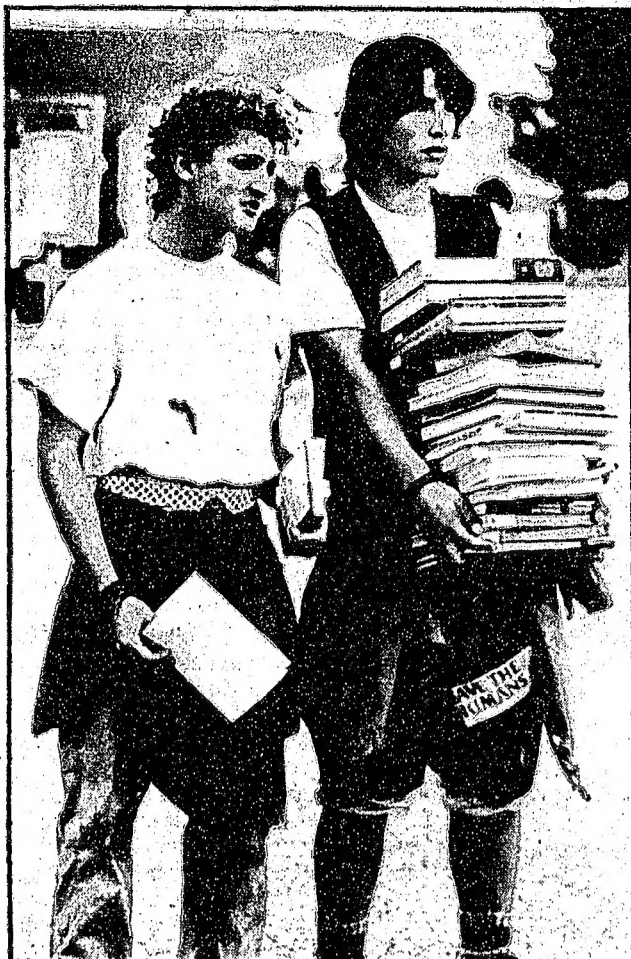
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No, these are not UNO students at registration; rather, they are actors Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves. The duo star in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure," which just opened at theaters nationwide and in Omaha. The comedy movie follows them as they travel through time to gather information for a history project.

Poetry under stars set for Friday

By CRAIG PUGH
Feature Editor

Poetry under the stars — in February? In Omaha? Yes, but relax. Thanks to Assistant Professor Robert Schmidt and his stalwart crew at UNO's Planetarium, such a thing is possible.

And that's good news to Assistant Professor Art Homer, who plans to read poetry under the Kountze Memorial Planetarium stars Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.

"Yes, this will be a first on campus; it's an inaugural poetry-under-the-stars reading," Homer said. "I've been thinking of new approaches to poetry reading, and this came to mind. It's been done elsewhere, and I think it's about time we did it here."

He added that the university physics department has made it easy, due to the amount of help they've provided him to have the reading in their planetarium.

Homer chairs UNO's two-man Writer's Workshop department. He teaches the poetry portion of the writing degree offered, while Professor Richard Duggin teaches the fiction portion.

"I like the idea of poetry under the stars," Homer said. "It's sort of like an invitation to dream. I hope it will be fun for those attending. We'll certainly be in a new setting for a poetry reading."

He said he'll do his best to make his poems fit a romantic, dreamy mood when at all possible, and has been looking through his works to find such poems. However, he cautioned, there is no particular theme to the night's readings.

Homer has published a wide range of diverse poetry in three collections. They are titled "What We Did After Rain," "Tattoos" and "Skies of Such Valuable Glass."

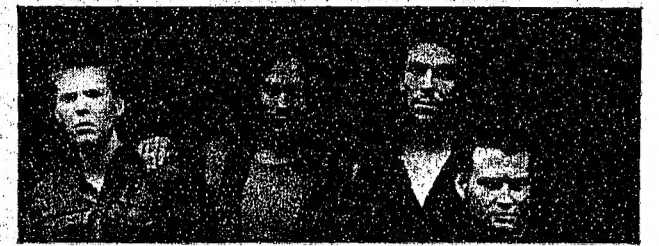
His poems also have been published in such literary journals as "Antaeus," the "Seattle Review," "Quarterly West" and "Poetry."

He was born in Missouri, but raised in the Pacific Northwest. He earned his bachelor's at Portland State University

and his master's of fine arts degree at the University of Montana. It was there he studied under Richard Hugo, a poet of national stature who influenced an entire generation of young poets.

The poetry under the stars reading is part of the annual reading series in contemporary literature at UNO. Admission will be \$2 for the general public and \$1 for students. Seating is limited.

"It should be fun," Homer said. "Stargazing is an imaginative activity, and I see it as fitting in with poetry. I hope people sit back, relax and enjoy the reading."



'Toll' plays tonight

By CRAIG ROTERMUND
Contributing Writer

At last, a band has arrived on the music scene with an underlying desire for creative freedom.

The Toll, a Columbus, Ohio-based band, recently released its debut album, "The Price of Progression." It has an extremely unique sound due mainly to the vocals of lead singer Brad Circone.

An almost live feel is created because of his improvisational narratives in many of the songs. They are somewhat reminiscent of Jim Morrison of the Doors, and seem based on Brad's transformation into a character inspired by the song. The narratives also instill spontaneity in the other band members, because they never know what to expect.

"Jonathan Toledo," "Anna-41-Box," and "Living in the Valley of Pain" each clock in at over 10 minutes and cover topics like the current state of the American Indian's culture, a woman's midlife crisis, and a boy who has his creative ideas restrained by Catholic education.

The Toll is an original band, and anyone interested in watching them can see them at the Ranch Bowl tonight.

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Loans from page 1

He said, however, UNO's rate was not the reason for the saving and loan's decision. "We don't look at any one school," he said.

Laughlin said the federal government may not always have funds to fully insure student loans.

"Even though the president says he wants to be 'the education president,' it doesn't mean the money will always be available to do that," he said. "We shouldn't lull our-

selves to sleep thinking that will always be the case."

Laughlin declined to give the exact dollar amount his savings and loan lends for student loans. "It's several million dollars," he said.

He said Commercial Federal's decision was based on a decision to maximize profit for stockholders and was not in any way related to problems in the savings and loan industry. Friday, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation regulators took control of 25 financially troubled savings and loans, five of them in Nebraska.

"Even though the press has been bad for

savings and loans in general, we're very healthy," Laughlin said.

At Packers Bank and Trust Company, UNO's third largest student loan lender, officials have no plans to stop making the loans.

"We'd like to do more," said Lynn Feuerbach, student loan officer for Packers.

Feuerbach said the profit banks can expect to make on student loans is tied to interest on Treasury Bills. She said Commercial Federal "had not been very aggressive" in pursuit of student loans and might have started to lose interest in them

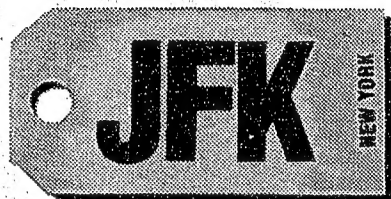
when interest rates on Treasury Bills dipped last summer.

Financial institutions might earn eight or nine percent on a student loan, but 12 percent on a commercial loan, she said.

Feuerbach said Packers is also concerned about the high default rate.

"We monitor it on a monthly and quarterly basis," she said.

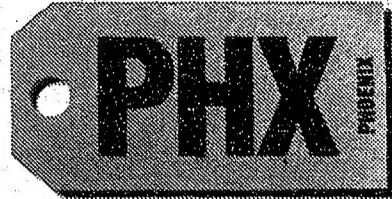
She said steps taken by colleges and the government seem to be improving the situation. "I think it's getting better, but it's a little too soon to tell."



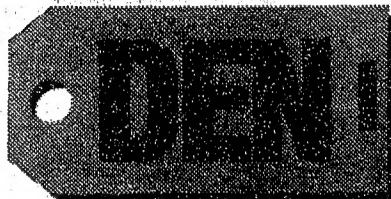
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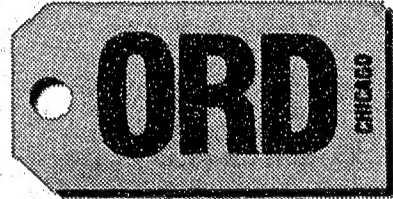
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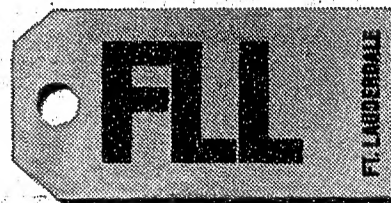
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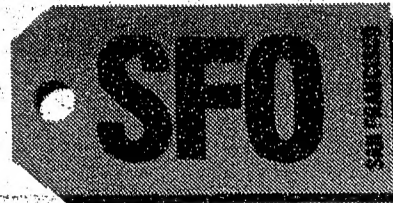
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Sports

UNO defense halts opponent's charge

By TIM COSTELLO
Contributing Writer

The Lady Maverick basketball team saved enough energy Friday night to survive a Grandview College come back effort Saturday night.

UNO topped Marymount College 89-59 Friday, and outlasted Grandview 98-79 Saturday.

The Lady Mavs held off Grandview, after leading by as much as 21 points.

UNO Coach Cherri Mankenberg said defensive intensity and strong second-half efforts won the game for the Lady Mavs, now 14-11 on the season.

"I was pleased with the fact that we came out in the second half and just really jumped on our opponents. The first two minutes of the second half is what really made the games."

Grandview's Tracy Chapman hit a three-point shot with 3:28 left in the game to make it 81-73, but Jill Dau's 3-pointer and free throws from Laura Larson and Darcy Burns insured the win for UNO.

UNO had five players score in double figures. Julie Johnston led with 19 points and six steals and Kathy Van Diepen dropped 16. Tricia Floyd added 13 and Dau and Burns each had 10.

Grandview was led by Stephanie Holt's 18 points and eight rebounds.

Marymount College did not make a late charge Friday night, as UNO won the game easily behind a team record of 32 assists.

All 11 UNO players scored, as the Lady Mavs dominated in nearly every statistical category over Marymount.

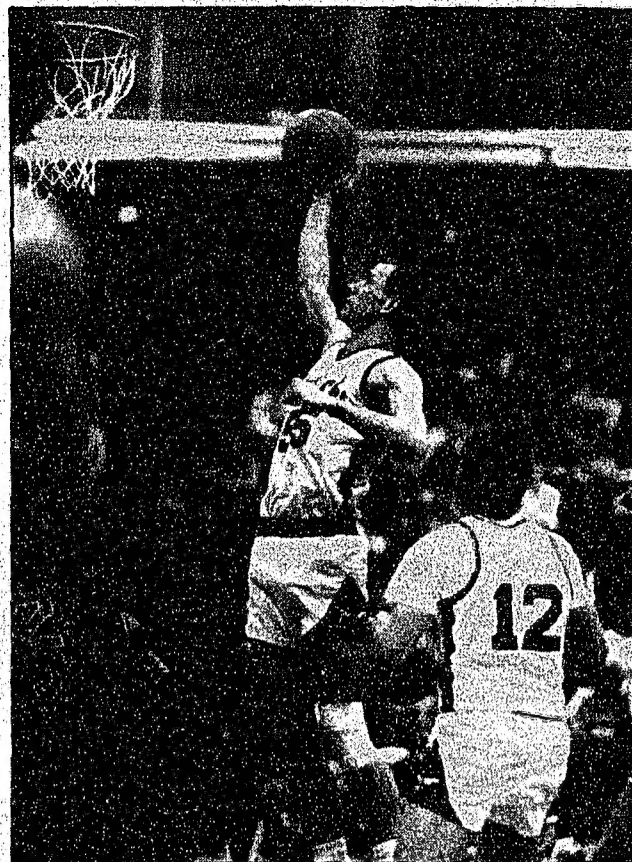
Van Diepen had 17 points and Burns scored 14 points and nine rebounds for UNO.

Mankenberg said the wins were a great opportunity to get everyone in the game.

"That's fun to do because all 11 players work so hard in practice. Leigh Kofoed is one who has seen real limited playing time, but she's such a great kid. Her attitude's super, and that kind of individual who sees the least amount of time and still contributes to the team, is why you need these games to play those people, too."

UNO plays North Dakota State and North Dakota on the road Feb. 24 and 25 before returning home for their final game against South Dakota, March 4.

"Any time you win helps recruiting. Within our conference it helps if you beat a team you are competing with for a player. Usually the North Dakota schools don't come down into where we recruit a whole lot but this year they are. They are after a kid we're after."



— Dave Weaver

Maverick 6-foot-9 Troy Deane shoots a jump hook in the loss to Northern Colorado, Saturday, as Mike Harner, No. 12, looks on.

UNO started in a zone, hoping to shut down Northern Colorado's 6-foot-9 senior center Mike Higgins, the NCC's all-time leading scorer.

"You can't handle him one on one," Hanson said. "He is a very quick, very good player."

Higgins was held to six points and three rebounds in the first half as UNO went into the locker room trailing 28-23.

But Higgins exploded for 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the second half to help lead Northern Colorado to their 17-point victory.

Northern Colorado Coach Ron Brillhart said UNO did a good job of playing defense.

"We had more trouble against their zone than anyone else's all year long," Brillhart said.

Mavs shoot Chiefs, bitten by Bears

By TONY FLOTT
Contributing Writer

For the third week in a row, the UNO men's basketball team split two weekend games, beating Morningside 71-64 and dropping to first place Northern Colorado 67-50.

The split left UNO with a 13-12 overall record and a 5-10 mark in conference play.

On Friday night, the Mavs scored the first basket of the game and led the rest of the way, winning with a starting lineup containing three freshmen and one sophomore.

The Mavs' balanced scoring attack was led by senior center Tim Adamek's 16 points.

Senior forward Bryan Muellner added 10 points and a team-high 11 rebounds. Sophomore Thor Palamore chipped in 14 points.

"This was a good team win," UNO Coach Bob Hanson said.

"We played good defense in the first half," Hanson said.

"There were nine or 10 times in a row in the first half where we went without a score and still kept the lead."

Morningside was led by senior center Tom Betz, who scored 13 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds. Betz, however, fouled out with 6:08 left in the game as Morningside trailed 52-49.

Hanson said the loss of Betz hurt Morningside's chances for a victory.

"We couldn't keep him (Betz) off the boards," Hanson said. "In the second half we went inside and hoped to get him in foul trouble."

UNO outscored Morningside 11-2 in the next 1:54, pulling away for the victory.

Saturday, the Mavs lost to the No. 20 ranked team, Northern Colorado.

Hanson blamed the loss on a lack of discipline.

"We lost our discipline in the first part of the second half," Hanson said. "We got out of our game-plan and didn't pass the ball enough."

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